

ANOTHER NEW BRANCH OF MANUFACTURES.—Our readers have been informed in our columns, of the commencement of a great number of new branches of manufactures, within the last twelve months—such as wood screws, butts, pins, needles, Muslins de Laines, Linens, &c. &c. We find in a late number of the Tribune, some interesting facts relative to the manufacture of Steel. It is well known that a prejudice has long existed against American steel. It has been deemed inferior to the English article, and many have believed that good steel could not be made from American iron. Indeed notwithstanding a large quantity has been heretofore made in Pittsburgh, more has been imported to that place than has been manufactured there. But, from various causes, the attention of those engaged in the business has turned to improvement in the manufacture of the article, and with success that one establishment which formerly sold but ten tons per annum, now sells over two hundred tons.

A Pittsburgh manufacturer says as a reason why the best steel has not heretofore been manufactured in large quantities, that the demand has until now been almost entirely for an inferior quality for coach springs &c. but since the present Tariff went into operation, a demand has sprung for a finer quality of Steel to manufacture into Saws, Files, Cutlery, &c. To meet this demand, a number of Sheffield workmen were sent for, and are now in Pittsburgh and as fallacy that American Iron will not make good Steel has been exploded, this branch of industry will be carried on extensively, and sufficient quantity of the commodity produced to meet the growing demand.

It is impossible to estimate the advantages which will accrue to this country from this and similar important branches of manufacture.—Heretofore we have depended, almost entirely, upon England for our Edge-Tools and Cutlery. But this dependence will not continue much longer. Already, American cutlery begins to take the place of imported article, and knives and forks, of American manufacture, can now be purchased at any of our hardware stores, cheaper than the same quality of English goods have ever been offered! English Cotton, French Muslin de Laines, English Wood screws Butts, and many other articles have been already entirely or almost entirely, driven from the market, and as good articles, of American Manufacture, can now be purchased for less money than the foreign commodities were formerly sold for. The same is already partially true of Cutlery. Ere long it will be true to the full extent.

law, authorizing the loan of money by the state, shall specify the object for which the money is to be appropriated, and before it takes effect, shall be submitted to the people for rejection or approval.—This resolution having been approved by two-thirds of the members of the last legislature, and by a large majority of the people at the late election, has thereby become operative as a part of the constitution. The report of the state canvassers, showing the vote upon the subject will be laid before you.

Another joint resolution was adopted on the 6th day of February, proposing a further amendment to the constitution, to the effect that the general election shall be held on the first Tuesday of November in each year, and but one day. This resolution is referred to you, and, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected to each house, must be submitted to the people at such time and in such manner as you may prescribe.

The amount received into the treasury the last fiscal year, to the credit of the common school interest fund, was \$19,418.39, and during the same period \$20,890.09, was distributed for the purpose of common schools throughout the state.

The amount received to the credit of the university interest fund, was \$7,251.32. Of this sum, \$6000 was appropriated to the payment of interest due on the loan made for the university, and the remainder expended by the agents for the beneficial purposes of the institution. Of this fund, \$6,000, and the difference of exchange between Detroit and New York, is annually required to pay interest, and the balance, under existing circumstances cannot be estimated much above \$1,000, which is insufficient to render the university, in any considerable degree, useful, and scarcely sufficient to continue it in operation. You will, therefore, see the necessity of adopting measures, at the present session for its relief.

Of the seventy-two sections of land, which constituted its endowment, about one fourth part has been sold. The minimum price fixed by law, is twelve dollars an acre; and, as this sum exceeds the present value of the unsold land, it will devolve on you to decide whether a reduction may now be made with advantage to the permanent prosperity of the university. Large quantities of the other public lands are in market, and may be purchased at rates so low that sales of university lands might not be made, even at a minimum corresponding with their true value. On the other hand, the institution is now in its infancy, and the present use of the funds with which it is endowed, is required to ensure its permanence. The lands cannot be sold at their present estimated value for many years to come, and,

properly introduced into the existing charters of banks, the addition of individual to existing corporate responsibility, is one which deserves your attention. It would be difficult to show a satisfactory reason why partners in a corporation should be exempt from liabilities to which partners are subject in an association without corporate powers. Banks may also be justly restricted from making loans to their stockholders, and from issuing bank notes, other than their own, payable on demand at the place where issued. The safety of the public would also be increased, if banks were required to obtain the bills intended to be issued from some department of the state government, and, at the same time, to file such approved security therefor as would insure their redemption in case the corporation should fail or become insolvent.

Manufactories, sustained by the principle of protection, are monopolies not less obnoxious nor less injurious than banks. Their proprietors are alike supported and enriched by a tax upon the industry of others.

In England the landholder asks protection by taxing the manufacturer; in the United States, the manufacturer demands protection by imposing a tax upon the farmer. In that country, the landholder claims the monopoly of supplying the manufacturer with bread; in this, the manufacturer asks the monopoly of furnishing the farmer with wares and merchandize. In neither case is there a community of interest. In England, the landholder cannot purchase the articles produced by the manufacturer, because of the extensive supply; nor in this country, can the manufacturer purchase of the farmer for the same reason. There, the corn laws oppress the manufacturer; here, a protective tariff oppresses the agriculturalist.

In our own country, one of the most usual arguments in behalf of a protective tariff is that of furnishing a home market to the farmer. To demonstrate the unsoundness of this argument it is only necessary to refer to the statistics contained in the last census returns, from which it will be seen that the agricultural productions of the United States so greatly exceed any domestic demand for consumption, that the very idea of creating a home market is absurd. The surplus of the State of Ohio will more than supply the deficit in all the manufacturing states.—What then is to become of the surplus of other States? The whole country being taxed to create this market a corresponding advantage ought to be shown. What then is that advantage? Does the farmer produce bring more? No, because the supply at home being greater than the demand, its price is determined by what

labor has earned, and when it enters into the business of the citizen, it departs from its legitimate sphere.

Stay laws, stop laws, suspension laws, and relief laws, are impolitic, unjust and immoral in their tendency. They are adopted as temporizing measures to ward off threatening evils, consequent upon our own improvidence, and yet they ever fail to effect the object designed. If they give relief to one class they bring distress upon another. If they enable one man to avoid the payment of his just debts, they at the same time deprive another of his vested rights. Besides, almost every person in society occupies the double relation of debtor and creditors, and as debtor, he cannot discharge his own obligations, because, as creditor, he is unable to enforce the contracts made in his favor on which he relies for resource.

All acts and parts of acts retrospective in their character and intended when passed to affect past contracts, so far as they come within the decision referred to, should be repealed; but so far as such acts were designed to be retrospective and to affect future contracts only, and are therefore constitutional, although impolitic and unwise, they should not be repealed with blind and inconsiderate haste. Should you be of opinion that their modification or repeal is required, it will be a proper subject of inquiry at what future time such modification or repeal may best take effect, consistent with public good.

A reasonable amount of property, consisting of the most needful articles, should be secured to each family in the state, exempt from execution. A difference of opinion may well exist as to the limit to which exemptions may be extended. It would be better to err on the liberal side and exempt too much, than too little. All property beyond such exemptions, I have no doubt, should be subject to pay the debts of its owner.

The reports of the inspectors and agent of the state prison will acquaint you with the condition of that institution. During the year ending on the 31st day of October last, forty-three convicts were received, being less than during the preceding year. Since the last annual report, one has died, three have escaped, eight have been pardoned, and twenty-four discharged by expiration of sentence. The number of prisoners remaining is 94. The whole value of the labor of the convicts is estimated at \$10,346.56, being an excess of \$2,346.56, above the amount drawn from the treasury. The earnings of the convicts have been applied to the construction of the prison and in rebuilding the principal work shop which was destroyed by fire during the season. The inspectors make favorable report of the management of the prison, and speak in

public works, including scrip, or only such portion as should be received in specie funds. With a view to promote what they deemed the best interest of the State they determined to contract if possible, for the iron on such terms as would enable them to pay for it without making the payment, they believe they have effected that object. The whole quantity of iron requisite has been contracted for, and the greater portion of it received.

The sum of 24,333 dols 13 cts has been paid upon the purchase without any sacrifice, a part having been received in a par currency, and the residue obtained by an exchange with other funds. The remainder of the net proceeds, being scrip has been deposited in the State Treasury and credited to the sinking fund.

The Southern is now completed and in use from Monroe to Hillsdale, a distance of 68 miles. As, however, by reason of unavoidable delay in the reception of the iron, the season was far advanced before its completion and as the necessary locomotives and other stock could not be obtained until some time afterwards, the amount of receipts the past year will not afford correct data which to predicate estimates hereafter.

The construction of the ship canal, at Monroe, conducted by private enterprise, was not so far advanced in the early part of the season as to afford to vessels navigating the lakes, an accessible harbor; and on this account the business of the road was also diminished. I have heretofore had occasion to call the attention of the Legislature to the importance of a safe and convenient harbor at Monroe. Several years ago the general Government commenced the construction of a ship canal near the mouth of the Raisin which was designed for that purpose; but having abandoned the work, the citizens of Monroe, at their own expense, have recommenced it, and notwithstanding the magnitude of the undertaking, they have made considerable progress. It is, however, only from an appropriation by Congress, that the original design can be completed, and the consequent advantages fully realized.

It has been represented to the board of internal improvement, by petitions numerously signed that the interest of the state would be promoted by continuing the use of the branch railroad from Monroe depot to La Plaisance Bay. The board however, under the joint resolution of the 8th of March last, determined to relinquish to the subscribers of the latter place gratuitously or a nominal rent only the use of this road until the ensuing spring with a view of referring the subject to the decision of the legislature. The road is deemed to be no longer of any benefit to the state, but it is represented that

motives and in the increase, other than the stock of the two roads.

By an act of the legislature, approved March 1st, 1843, the board of internal improvement were authorized to complete the Clinton and Kalamazoo canal between the villages of Rochester and Frederick. Accordingly the board advertised for proposals; but it being made a condition that the work should not be let at a price exceeding the estimates of a competent engineer, and all the bids exceeding such estimates, the contracts could not be let, and the object of the act, consequently, could not be carried into effect.

The unusual high stage in the St. Joseph river, the last year, together with the unavailable character of the funds appropriated, has rendered it impracticable to make any improvement in the navigation of that stream.

The amount of unexpected appropriations from the internal improvement fund for which warrants will be issued, added to the amount of warrants already issued and outstanding, will equal the value, at the minimum price, of the unsold portion of the half million acres granted by Congress for the purposes of internal improvement.

The revenue upon our public works the ensuing year, will probably be greater than during the last, but the increase cannot now be estimated with accuracy.—As already intimated, the receipts upon the southern railroad will be increased but for want of means the necessary repairs have not hitherto been made, and the road in consequence, being in a bad condition, will require the expenditure of large sums to put it in a proper state for use. The stock also is insufficient and a considerable portion of its income must be used in building cars, and furnishing machinery, indispensably necessary. For these purposes the whole estimated revenue of the southern road will be required the ensuing year. The receipts upon the Central road, when finished to Marshall will be also increased, but as additional stock will be required, a large amount of accruing revenue must be expended in its purchase.

In the scrip out-standing, and the late purchase of rail iron, the net proceeds of all our public works have been fully anticipated until the first day of July 1845, after which period by the second section of an act to liquidate the public debt and to provide for the payment of the interest thereon and for other purposes, approved March 8th 1843, such net proceeds are appropriated to pay accruing interests on the bonds and other indebtedness of the state.

The report of the board of Auditors will make you acquainted with their pro-